

House Republican Press Release

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Gov. Rell, Rep. Farr: Bond Commission Okays \$500,000 Grant for West Hartford Public Library



The State Bond Commission has approved a \$500,000 grant for an expansion and renovation project at the West Hartford Public Library, Governor M. Jodi Rell and state Representative Bob Farr, R- West Hartford, announced today.

The Bond Commission approved the funding at its monthly meeting today (Friday, January 27th).

“This project will expand the West Hartford Public Library’s main facility which has not been substantially expanded in over 40 years,” Governor Rell said. “West Hartford’s population has grown considerably over that span of time, making the building inadequate to meet the community’s needs. These funds will give everyone a bit more breathing room, and I thank residents for their patience while these improvements are made.”

“West Hartford is fortunate to have one of the state’s premiere public libraries. The addition and improvements this grant will help finance will enable the library to expand its offerings and enhance its reputation for service and quality,” Representative Farr said.

“As a long-time patron, I’ve always appreciated the important role the library plays in the lives of West Hartford residents. As a town councilor and a state legislator, it’s been my pleasure to support the library and the people who work there for many years,” said Representative Farr, who got his first job at the West Hartford Public Library during his high school years.

With a 16,888-square foot addition and renovation of the rest of the facility, the library will be able to provide more space for services. The project will:

- Double the space in the children’s area
- Add a computer lab
- Add a local history room and a new teen room
- Add public and meeting spaces.

The library, which is located at 20 South Main Street, also will be able to make updated technology available and make the building completely accessible.

“These improvements should provide the extra space to meet the needs of staff and residents,” Governor Rell said. “All across the state, we are taking a close look at our local libraries to see where improvements are needed and where long-term fixes can be made. Our libraries nourish creativity. They open our minds. It is our obligation to preserve them so that our children and grandchildren may reap the same benefits from this resource as we have.”